Government Officials' visit to Western Countries

1976. SHRI E. BALANANDAN:
SHRI M. A. BABY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many top Government Officials accept invitation from multi-national firms to visit western countries on one pretext or the other;

(b) if so, how many such Officials are on tour and to which places; and

(c) the details, from where such invitations have come?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) No, Sir. Instructions have been issued that officers should not accept any invitation for participation in Symposia, Seminars, etc. abroad without prior clearance of the competent authority. All officers are required to follow these instructions.

(b) and (c) In view of reply to part (a) above, questions do not arise.

Taking Clearance for Visit Abroad

1977. SHRI M. A. BABY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued any circular asking top Government Officials not to visit western countries without taking clearance from proper authority in this respect;

(b) whether any official had actually visited any foreign city in violation of the rule; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken for violating the rule of conduct?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) In view of the reply to part (a) above, questions do not arise.

Clearance to External Commercial Loans

1978. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
SHRI S. AUSTIN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of applications received by the Union Government seeking clearance for external commercial loans during the last six months;

(b) the number of such applications cleared during the above period; and

(c) the total amount of commercial loans cleared during the current year till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) to (c) During the period June 1, 1994 to November 30, 1994, 267 applications were received by the Government of India for availing of external commercial loans of maturity greater than one year but excluding defence debt. Out of these, 144 have been given clearance under approved guidelines for external commercial borrowings. The total amount of external commercial loans cleared during this period aggregate to USD 2095.222 mio. equivalent. During the current financial year, April 1, 1994 till November 30, 1994, the total amount of external commercial loans approved aggregate to USD 2856.613 mio. equivalent.

India's Agreement with other Countries to Avoid Double Taxation

1979. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the particulars of the countries with whom India has so far signed agreements to avoid double taxation and to prevent fiscal evasion with regard to the taxes on income indicating the effective dates of these agreements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): The information regarding notified Double Taxation Avoidance Agreements is given in the Statement.

Statement

India's Double Taxation avoidance Agreements

S. No.	Name of country	Effective from Assessment year
(1)	(2)	(3)
1.	Australia	1993-94
2.	Austria	1963-64
3.	Bangladesh	1993-94
4.	Belgium (Original)	1975-76/ 1976-77
5.	Belgium (S. Protocol)	1988-89/ 1989-90
6.	Brazil	1994-95
7.	Canada	1987-88
8.	Czechoslovakia	1986-87
9.	Denmark	1990-91/ 1991-92
10.	Finland	1985-86
11.	France (Original)	1970-71/ 1971-72

(1)	(2)	(3)
12.	France (Revised) . .	1996-97
13.	F. R. G. (Original) . .	1958-59
14.	F. R. G. (Protocol) . .	1984-85
15.	G. D. R.	1985-86
16.	Greece	1984-85
17.	Hungary	1989-90
18.	Indonesia	1989-90
19.	Italy	1978-79
20.	Japan (Revised) . .	1991-92
21.	Kenya	1985-86
22.	Libya	1983-84/ 1984-85
23.	Malaysia	1973-74
24.	Mauritius	1983-84
25.	Nepal	1990-91
26.	Netherlands . . .	1990-91
27.	New Zealand . . .	1988-89
28.	Norway	1988-89
29.	Poland	1991-92
30.	Romania	1989-90
31.	Singapore (Revised) . .	1995-96
32.	South Korea . . .	1987-88
33.	Srilanka (Revised) . .	1981-82
34.	Sweden (Revised) . .	1990-91
35.	Syria	1983-84
36.	Tanzania	1982-83/ 1983-84
37.	Thailand	1987-88/ 1988-89
38.	U. A. E.	1995-96
39.	U. A. R.	1969-70/ 1970-71
40.	U. K. (Revised) . .	1995-96
41.	U. S. A.	1992-93
42.	U. S. S. R. (Now Applicable to Russia) . . .	1991-92
43.	Zambia	1979-80

Agreement between India and Pakistan on Smuggling of Narcotics

1980. SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV:
SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN:
PROF. VIJAYA KUMAR MALHOTRA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting had taken place between the Secretary (Narcotics) Pakistan and the Secretary (Revenue), India in the recent past on narcotics control;

(b) if so, the details of the matters discussed therein;

(c) the outcome thereof; and

(d) the concrete steps taken by Government to check the smuggling of narcotics from Pakistan to India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The first Bilateral Meeting between Secretaries of India and Pakistan to combat drug trafficking and smuggling was held in New Delhi on 15-16 September, 1994. Both sides reviewed the drug trafficking situation in the respective countries and offered assistance for making co-operation between the two countries on narcotics related matters successful. The general topics covered during the Meeting included strengthening the mechanism of information/intelligence sharing by speedy communication at the field level co-operation in identifying and neutralize major drug operators on either side and frequent consultation on drug matters.

The outcome of the Meeting was positive in improving the bilateral arrangement for combating the drug trafficking between two countries.

(d) Instructions have been issued to all enforcement agencies to maintain the utmost vigil and step-up enforcement efforts under the stringent provisions contained in the NDPS Act. A part of Indo-Pak border has been fenced. BSF and Coast Guard have been empowered under the Customs Act to interdict narcotic drugs in border areas.

Show Cause Notices Served on Erring Banks

1981. DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA:
SHRI ASHOK MITRA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering action against banks involved in the 1992 Security Scam for violation of Banker's Receipts the main source of the Security Scam; and

(b) if so, whether that was a part of the show cause notices served on the erring banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has intimated that show cause notices were issued leading to imposition of penalty to 20 banks for having undertaken operations in Portfolio Management Scheme (PMS) and Ready Forward (RF) transactions in violation of RBI's instructions. A show cause notice was also issued and penalty imposed on one bank for default in the maintenance of Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) on account of irregularities in securities transactions. RBI has further intimated that